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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

July 31, 1986

L/A

HARRY READ, Director of Information and Publications (217) 581-2820

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--An internationally-known zoologist will be recognized by Eastern Illinois University during summer commencement ceremonies on Sunday, Aug. 10.

Dr. Philip W. Smith, a former Eastern student and professor of zoology at the University of Illinois for 14 years, will be given an honorary Doctor of Science degree.

Eastern's president, Dr. Stanley Rives, said "Dr. Philip Smith is a giant in his field. It was a privilege to offer him this degree. He honored the University by accepting."

Smith was a scientist with the Illinois Natural History Survey for about 33 years. He was named head of the Section of Faunistic Surveys and Insect Identification in 1969 and retained that position until his retirement in 1979. He taught at the U. of I. from 1965 to 1979.

Although he received his bachelor's degree at the U. of I., he attended Eastern 1940-42 and 1946-47. He also holds a master's degree and doctorate from Illinois.

As a student at Eastern, Smith was the first biologist to direct the Fox Ridge Lake Field Laboratory near Charleston. While working toward advanced degrees, he was a technical assistant with the Natural History Survey.

Two of Smith's three books have long been recognized as definitive works in their areas: "The Amphibians and Reptiles of Illinois" and "Fishes of Illinois." He has published more than 100 papers and belongs to many professional societies.

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Smith

He has served on the Board of Governors of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, was editor-in-chief of its journal, and was the Society's vice president in 1966.

Smith was born in Neoga and is a graduate of Greenup High School. The Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities approved the honorary degree following a recommendation by Dr. Rives.